





HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION recognizing National Child Abuse Prevention Month.

Whereas, April was first declared Child Abuse Prevention Month by presidential proclamation in 1983;

Whereas, Child abuse causes unspeakable pain and suffering to our most vulnerable citizens;

Whereas, In the Child Maltreatment 2011 report (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children & Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau), it was reported that in 2011 in the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico, an estimated 676,596 children were victims of child abuse:

Whereas, Among the children who are victims of abuse and neglect, more than four die in the United States each day, a total of 1,545 fatalities in 2011;

Whereas, The overall rate of child fatalities was 2.10 deaths per 100,000 children, with four-fifths (81.6%) of all child fatalities involving children younger than 4 years old;

Whereas, Abusive head trauma, including the trauma known as "shaken baby syndrome", is recognized as the leading cause of death of physically abused children;

Whereas, shaken baby syndrome can result in loss of



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vision, brain damage, paralysis, seizures, or death;

Whereas, Prevention programs have demonstrated that educating new parents about the danger of shaking young children and about how they can help protect their child from injury can bring about a significant reduction in the number of cases of shaken baby syndrome;

Whereas, Most child abuse cases result from situations that are preventable when community programs and systems are engaged and supportive; and

Whereas, Recognizing April as Child Abuse Prevention Month can be an opportunity to help create strong communities to support families and keep children safe: Therefore,

> Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the State of Indiana, the Senate concurring:

SECTION 1. That the Indiana General Assembly strongly supports efforts to protect children from abuse and neglect.

SECTION 2. That the Indiana General Assembly recognizes April as National Child Abuse Prevention Month and commends those hospitals, child care councils, schools, and other organizations that are working to increase awareness of child abuse and to help prevent it.

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